China's rich religious and philosophical heritage dates back to the 4th century BC. Confucianism, Daoism, Buddhism, and, most recently, Christianity, have each had a strong influence on Chinese culture and thought.

After Liberation Mao Zedong declared religion to be against the tenets of socialism and banned all forms of worship. The government has only recently begun to restore temples, churches, and mosques. Communist Party members still are not permitted to remain in the Party if they profess any religious faith.

Despite persecution, the number of Protestants in China has grown from an estimated 700,000 in 1949 to 1.5 million today. Worship services in national churches are closely monitored by the government, and house-church services are still held in secret. In 1982 a fund was established to encourage Buddhist culture and education, although worship is still frowned upon by the government. In addition, there are more than 13 million Muslims in the country. Concerned about the residue of feudalistic practices in the countryside, the government continues to outlaw ancestor worship.

## Age Distribution

The dynamics of China's population have undergone a series of dramatic changes in the past two decades. The crude birth rate declined from an estimated 50 per thousand in 1963 to 21 per thousand in 1982. The crude death rate declined during the same period from 14 per 1,000 to 8 per 1,000, according to U.S. Bureau of the Census figures. A growth rate of 1.3 percent annually is given by 1982 census figures. A national sample survey in 1983 reported a year-end growth rate of 1.15 percent.

The decrease in the population growth rate can be attributed to a variety of factors, including more equitable and stable economic conditions, an improved standard of living, and China's stringent population control policy. The goal of the birth planning program is to prevent the population from exceeding 1.2 billion by the year 2000. To achieve this goal, the government exhorts couples to have only one child, offering a set of benefits to those who comply and imposing severe sanctions against those who do not. The one-child policy, successful in the cities, faces stiff opposition in the countryside. Western demographers project that the population will more likely reach 1.35 billion by the end of the century.

The total fertility rate, or the average number of children born per woman, further illustrates the decline in the birth rate in China. In

## A Look at the Demographics / *continued*

| *Administrative Unit* | *(8) Sex Ratio 1982* | *(9) Percent Urban 1979* | *(10) Population Density 1982* | *(11) Per-capita total industrial and agricultural output value, Yuan, 1981* | *(12) Population per hospital bed, 1979* | *(13) Population per barefoot doctor, 1979* | *(14) Life Expectancy 1973-75* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **All China** | **106.3** | **13.2** | **106** | **757** | **503** | — | — |
| Beijing | 102.4 | 58.5 | 547 | 2,629 | 325 | 300 | 69.53 |
| Tianjin | 103.1 | 65.6 | 688 | 2,880 | 413 | 406 | 70.92 |
| Hebei | 104.8 | 10.2 | 285 | 637 | 587 | 387 | 68.60 |
| Shanxi | 108.5 | 15.6 | 163 | 690 | 368 | 326 | 66.63 |
| Nei Monggol | 109.0 | 15.2 | 16 | 540 | 398 | 490 | 66.25 |
| Liaoning | 104.2 | 34.7 | 247 | 1,524 | 320 | 632 | 69.68 |
| Jilin | 105.0 | 21.7 | 120 | 860 | 366 | 595 | 65.84 |
| Heilongjiang | 104.9 | 24.5 | 70 | 1,058 | 345 | 633 | 70.36 |
| Shanghai | 99.3 | 52.2 | 1,909 | 5,558 | 237 | 471 | 71.97 |
| Jiangsu | 103.4 | 10.5 | 593 | 1,128 | 517 | 650 | 67.17 |
| Zhejiang | 107.7 | 6.5 | 385 | 860 | 633 | 479 | 68.43 |
| Anhui | 107.8 | 8.5 | 360 | 499 | 660 | 679 | 65.66 |
| Fujian | 105.9 | 11.2 | 215 | 552 | 543 | 649 | 67.25 |
| Jiangxi | 106.5 | 11.0 | 201 | 511 | 479 | 606 | 63.18 |
| Shandong | 102.9 | 9.5 | 490 | 739 | 626 | 371 | n.a. |
| Henan | 104.1 | 8.3 | 450 | 501 | 676 | 438 | 66.89 |
| Hubei | 105.5 | 9.7 | 256 | 764 | 426 | 505 | n.a. |
| Hunan | 108.1 | 7.0 | 260 | 577 | 452 | 539 | 62.49 |
| Guangdong | 104.6 | 5.7 | 282 | 634 | 766 | 795 | n.a. |
| Guangxi | 107.3 | 12.0 | 160 | 431 | 547 | 726 | n.a. |
| Sichuan | 106.6 | 9.4 | 177 | 473 | 557 | 530 | 60.10 |
| Guizhou | 105.2 | 14.1 | 163 | 303 | 683 | 927 | 59.25 |
| Yunnan | 102.8 | 6.5 | 83 | 407 | 536 | 681 | 60.57 |
| Tibet | 97.8 | 6.5 | 1.6 | 398 | 444 | 319 | 61.30 |
| Shaanxi | 107.4 | 12.0 | 141 | 544 | 527 | 332 | 64.56 |
| Gansu | 107.2 | 9.4 | 43 | 528 | 565 | 429 | n.a. |
| Qinghai | 106.0 | 14.6 | 5 | 526 | 349 | 356 | 61.28 |
| Ningxia | 106.2 | 16.9 | 59 | 528 | 512 | 595 | 62.28 |
| Xinjiang | 106.0 | 19.8 | 8 | 580 | 297 | 684 | 62.51 |

*(10) State Statistical Bureau, Statistical Yearbook, 1983*
*(11) China Facts and Figures Annual, 1981*
*(12-14) World Bank, 1982, China: Socialist Economic Development*

**Family Structure: Kaixiangong Village, Jiangsu Province: 1936 and 1981**

(in percent)

| | 1936 | 1981 |
|---|---|---|
| Partial nuclear family | 27.6 | 18.1 |
| Nuclear family | 23.7 | 39.0 |
| Nuclear family with dependents | 38.4 | 21.6 |
| United family | 10.3 | 21.3 |

Source: China Reconstructs, Vol. 31, No. 7, July, 1982

1953 a woman would give birth to an average of 6 children in her lifetime; by 1981 this figure had dropped to 2.6 children. The 1981 total fertility rate in rural areas was 3 and in urban areas 1.4, as low as the lowest ever recorded in Denmark and West Germany.

The sex ratio in China is 106 males to every 100 females. This aggregate statistic disguises regional differences in the sex ratio, reported to be more skewed in some areas as a result of the one-child policy and a traditional preference for sons (see sidebar). The government is extremely concerned about female infanticide and its possible adverse effects on the sex balance in the future.

## Housing

China has a critical housing shortage despite government attempts to alleviate the problem. Between 1949 and 1979 the state provided 593.5 million square meters of housing space in urban, industrial and mining areas. In 1980 an additional 78 million square meters of housing space were completed, housing nearly 1.5 million families. For the most part multi-story apartment buildings replace single family dwellings. Construction will not adequately meet the demand for new housing for at least the next decade in many areas. An estimated one-third of urban residents lack sufficient living space. It is not uncommon for a family of four to live in two rooms. New apartments generally contain one or two bedrooms, a kitchen, a bathroom, and a hallway or small foyer.

The housing deficiency has been attributed to rapid population growth, poor capital construction planning, and the disruption caused by the Cultural Revolution. Population in mid-sized cities grew 83 percent between 1949 and 1978, whereas housing increased only 47 percent during the same period. The 78 million square meters of housing space completed in 1980 compare to only 18 million square meters constructed per year between 1966 and 1976.

Rent is low by international standards. Chinese pay only 2 to 3 percent of their income for housing. Including water and electricity, the total cost comes to no more than 5 percent of a family's income. Recently the government has allowed urban residents to purchase private housing.

Housing in China's countryside is much less constricted than in the cities. Many peasants live in large brick or mud-packed houses, although the architecture varies by region. Peasants can construct private homes or rent collectively-owned dwellings.

## Households

In 1982 average household size ranged from a high of 5.2 persons in Qinghai and Yunnan to a low of 3.6 persons in Shanghai. Based on a study in Jiangsu Province, Fei Xiaotong, China's most noted social scientist, describes four Chinese family types and changes within the family between 1936 and 1981. The partial nuclear family type is one in which either the father or mother is missing, or in which unmarried siblings live without parents. The nuclear family consists of a married couple and their unmarried children. Nuclear families with dependents include a widowed mother or father, or other relatives. The united family, China's ideal family type, is a union of more than one nuclear family. In 1936, 38 percent of people, the largest group, lived in nuclear families with dependents (widowed parents or other relatives). Today the biggest group—39 percent — live in nuclear families without relatives. In accord with both the traditional Chinese insistence on family care for the elderly, and the acute housing shortage in urban areas, a substantial percentage of Chinese still live in united families or nuclear families with dependents (combined, 43 percent).

Within the family, lines of authority are more equitable between the sexes today, although for the most part females still leave their households and join their husband's family at marriage. Relations in the countryside are more patriarchal than in the cities. Throughout the country, Chinese women are engaged in productive labor outside the home, giving them a measure of economic security and bargaining power within the home. Women complain, however, that they carry a double burden, as men fail to carry out their fair share of the domestic duties.

## Literacy and Education

China has traditionally honored scholars and valued education. An important component in the government's modernization campaign has been to increase literacy and to provide universal primary education. This policy was reversed during the Cultural Revolution when most schools and universities were closed; China is said to have lost a decade of educational advancement.

Literacy rates for people over 12 years of age increased from 61 percent in 1964 to 77 percent in 1982, according to census data. By 1982, 35 percent of Chinese had received a primary school education, 18 percent had attended junior middle school, 6.6 percent had some senior middle school education and only .06 percent had enrolled in university.

Both boys and girls are equally represented in primary schools, but boys outnumber girls at all higher educational levels. The most pronounced difference occurs in universities where only 25 percent of the students are female. Chinese authorities, including some in the All-China Women's Federation, attribute this to generations of female suppression and to the tendency of girls from middle school on to think only about boys and clothes. The traditional belief in men's inherently superior intellectual capacity continues to be widespread.

In order to make efficient use of scarce educational resources, China has reinstituted the system of key schools and universities, endowed with better facilities, faculty, and resources. Children test into these schools and are likely to remain in

key schools throughout their educational careers. Admission to institutions of higher learning is based on a similar highly competitive examination system.

### Health

Today the average Chinese can expect to live for 68 years, 18 years longer than in other low-income countries. This increase serves as a rough index of the improvement in health care and in the standard of living in China. According to The World Bank, China is on its way through an "epidemiological transition." Mortality from infectious diseases has decreased, while death from cancer and circulatory diseases is increasing. A 1975 epidemiological study in China showed cancer to be a leading cause of death in the country.

Preventive care has been the hallmark of China's drive to increase health standards in the country. Based on the premise that each community should at least have access to primary medical care, China's rural health care system is based on a three-tiered system. In 1981, 2,000 counties had at least one hospital, an anti-epidemic station, a maternal and infant health clinic, a health personnel training school and a pharmacy. Ninety percent of communes had their own health centers, and 61,000 health stations operated at the brigade level.

China's famous "barefoot" doctors work out of these health care stations and provide care for ten or more production teams in each brigade. Peasants pay into commune health insurance plans. In urban areas people either go to their work-unit clinics or pay for health services in city hospitals. By 1981 China had an estimated three to five million health care workers.

Family planning services, including check-ups, contraceptives, and birth planning operations (IUD insertions, abortions, and sterilizations), are free. Couples who sign the single child pledge also receive a package of benefits for themselves and their child. Mothers receive pre- and post-natal care while their children have access to free or subsidized medical care until the age of 14.

# CHINA'S HOUSING

Ting Xuegen and his wife are members of the Evergreen Commune on the outskirts of the ancient city of Suzhou, a little more than an hour by train from Shanghai. Ting works in one of the commune's small factories, his wife on a production team on the commune's tea plantations. In their spare time, they take turns at a small sewing machine stitching embroidered fringes to women's silk hats, a sideline enterprise based on a contract with a Suzhou department store.

They estimate their total annual income at about 2,000 yuan (1 yuan equals 50 cents). With a family of two daughters, their per capita income of 500 yuan per year is well above the national average.

They live in a two-story, five-room brick and tile house built six years ago. Ting says it took them ten years to save the 4,000 yuan needed to buy the brick, tile, cement, glass and other materials required to begin construction. It also took two months of their own spare-time labor, working with neighboring families, to erect the seven-unit terrace of which their house forms a part.

By standards of industrialized countries, their new home is scarcely modern. There is no indoor plumbing. Furnishings are simple, almost spartan. But it contains more than three times as much space as the 30-square meter, one-story cottage from which they moved in 1977.

The improved living conditions of the Ting family provide a close up view of a phenomenon readily apparent in many parts of rural China and one that has evidently been growing apace for a number of years: the wholesale conversion of accumulated private savings into new and improved housing. Between 1978 and 1982, total new housing construction in China is estimated at 2 billion square meters, equivalent to all new housing construction in the previous years. A survey conducted in 1983 by the State Statistical Bureau among 19,000 rural households in 26 provinces and autonomous regions indicated that one family in every nine planned to build a new house that year. On the basis of an estimated 160 million rural families in China, this would represent nearly 18 million new homes and a staggering amount of both materials and labor.

(Although the need for new housing is apparent, the government is also trying to promote land use planning to spare valuable agricultural land from encroachment. There is also recognition of the demands for water and energy that the improvement of housing standards will cause.)

It seems questionable whether outsiders can truly grasp the dimensions of the challenge facing the Chinese in providing even modest housing standards as well as public services and the facilities for non-agricultural employment in rural areas, without in any way diminishing the available resources for food and fibre production.

There is one enduring impression, however, taken away from visits to a Chinese village, rich or poor. It is the palpable sensation that some sociologists have described as the "common rice bowl" solidarity of the extended Chinese family. It has survived three generations of national upheavals and can be traced, in this present case, in such tangible forms as pooled labor and interest-free loans among family groups. The sense of insecurity surrounding the rice bowl is mostly dissipated. In its place has come an urgent striving for a decent living environment adorned with a few of the trappings of the 20th century. If these strivings are fulfilled by the time the century has ended, it will probably represent one of the greatest collective human accomplishments of all time. •

—*Peter Hendry*

*Peter Hendry is chief editor of* Ceres.

*Excerpted from "Land Use and Living Space," in* Ceres, the FAO Review on Agriculture and Development, *Vol. 16, No. 6, 1983.*

Infant mortality has also been greatly reduced; the state, under the current eugenics scheme, seeks to guarantee that each couple's child will be a perfect, healthy child. Vaccinations are given against such common diseases as tetanus, diphtheria, measles, polio and tuberculosis. The 1982 census figures revised infant mortality rates upward to 35 infant deaths per 1,000 live births. The Chinese had claimed infant mortality rates of 12 per 1,000 in urban areas and 20 to 30 per 1,000 in rural areas. Census death counts may have been underestimated; infant mortality rates could be as high as 40 to 50 per 1,000 in China.

### Economy

In 1978 China initiated a program to decollectivize the agricultural sector. The new responsibility system, under which farmers contract land and provide the state with a percentage of their output, has largely replaced communal farms. By the end of 1984 this new system should extend to all of China's farmland. The responsibility system now includes forestry, animal husbandry, and fishing. On average, a peasant family rents 7 to 8 mu (1 mu = .164 acres) of land and provides the state with 5 to 6 percent of their output. Specialized households, comprising 13 percent of all rural households, are engaged in commodity production or service trade for the agricultural sector.

The government is pleased with results of the new responsibility sys-

**Improvement of People's Material and Cultural Life: 1979-1982**

| *Source* | *Unit* | *1979* | *1982* | *1982 as % of 1979* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Income of rural and urban inhabitants** | | | | |
| Per capita consumption of all inhabitants (3) | Rmb | 175 | 266 | 152.0 (131.9) |
| Income of Peasants: | | | | |
| Net annual income per capita (1) | Rmb | 134 | 270 | 201.5 |
| Income of staff and workers: | | | | |
| Average annual wage per capita | Rmb | 614 | 798 | 130.0 (113.6) |
| Annual income available for living expenses per capita (1) | Rmb | 316 | 500 | 158.2 (138.3) |
| **Annual consumption per capita (2)** | | | | |
| Grain | jin | 391 | 451 | 115.3 |
| Edible vegetable oil | jin | 3.19 | 7.07 | 221.6 |
| Pork | jin | 15.30 | 23.5 | 153.3 |
| Cloth | chi | 24.1 | 30.0 | 124.6 |
| Daily consumer goods | | 28.8 | 51.1 | 177.4 |
| **Living floor space per capita** | | | | |
| Urban areas | | 4.4 (4) | 5.6 | 127.3 |
| Rural areas | | 8.1 | 10.7 | 132.1 |
| **Transportation** | | | | |
| Bicycles per 100 persons | | 7.7 | 13.1 | 170.1 |
| Buses per 10,000 persons | | 3.3 | 3.8 | 115.2 |
| **Savings** | | | | |
| Savings deposits of rural and urban inhabitants (year-end) | | 210.6 | 675.4 | 320.7 |
| Savings deposits per capita (year-end) | Rmb 100 mil. | 21.0 | 66.5 | 303.7 |
| **Culture** | | | | |
| TV sets per 100 persons | | 0.3 | 2.7 | 900.0 |
| in urban areas | | 1.3 | 10.3 | 792.3 |
| Radio sets per 100 persons | | 7.8 | 18.2 | 233.3 |
| Newspapers per 100 persons per day | copy | 3.15 | 3.79 | 120.4 |
| Books and magazines per person per year | copy | 4.77 | 7.31 | 153.2 |
| **Education** | | | | |
| Enrollment ratio of school age children | % | 94 | 93 | 98.9 |
| University students per 10,000 persons | | 8.9 | 11.4 | 128.1 |
| **Public health** | | | | |
| Hospital beds per 10,000 persons | bed | 19.4 | 20.3 | 104.6 |
| Doctors per 10,000 persons | person | 10.8 | 12.9 | 119.4 |
| **Employment** | | | | |
| Number of persons supported by each employee (including the employee himself) | person | 2.06 | 1.73 | 84.0 |
| **Retail, catering and service trades** | | | | |
| Number of shopping units per 10,000 person (5) | unit | 13.0 | 38.0 | 292.3 |
| Number of employees per 10,000 persons (6) | person | 63.0 | 127.0 | 201.6 |

*Notes: 1) Figures obtained from household income and expenditure surveys, calculated on basis of number of persons in the household.*
*2) Annual consumption of grain, oil, meat and cloth includes both direct consumption by inhabitants and by catering trade, food and clothing industries. Cloth also includes that for public use.*
*3) The parenthesized figures indicate the change rate deducting increase in prices.*
*4) Figure of 1979.*
*5) Including those run by individuals.*
*6) Including individual workers.*
*Source: Statistical Yearbook of China, 1983. State Statistical Bureau, P.R.C.*

tem. Agricultural output is exceeding that forecast in national plans. In 1983 grain output was 380 million tons, a 9.2 percent increase over 1982 output. Still, in 1982, investment in agriculture was only 6.1 percent of the total investment in capital construction in the country. Experts agree that this level of investment is inadequate. Furthermore, urban expansion is reducing availability of agricultural land. Peasants, suspicious that the government might reverse the new agricultural policy, are reluctant to reinvest a substantial part of their profits in their farms.

The state continues to centralize planning for key construction projects, which have priority for resources. Most key projects involve energy and transportation, two of the weakest links in China's economy. Energy efficiency is low and many construction projects have encountered delays or cancellation because resources are scarce.

As of June, 1983, state-owned enterprises were converted to profit-based, tax-paying entities. This reorganization is designed to increase efficiency and output.

Foreign companies are encouraged to invest in China and to engage in joint-ventures. Special economic zones attract foreign capital as do offshore drilling agreements. In 1983, China used $1.96 billion in foreign exchange.

Tourism provides China with an additional source of foreign exchange. In 1982 9.5 million tourists (including overseas Chinese) spent 1.86 billion yuan in China.

### The Labor Force

Since the 1950s China has maintained a policy of full and permanent employment for all Chinese. By the late 1960s full employment had become difficult to insure due to increasing numbers of yearly entrants to the labor market and slow economic growth. Mao's campaign which sent Chinese youth to the countryside during the 1960s was partly a mechanism to stem the tide of urban unemployment; now those 15 million youths have returned to the cities, exacerbating China's employment problems. Central allocation of jobs precluded the unemployed from searching for jobs on their own initiative. The result was unemployment, underemployment, and inefficient utilization of trained workers.

Since 1978 people have been encouraged to set up private enterprises and to seek employment. Middle school graduates, and "youths waiting for work," have been told that the government cannot guarantee job placement. The unemployment rate for young women ages 15 to 34 was 3.6 percent in 1982, higher than the 2.3 percent unemployment rate for young men in that age group. Both figures most likely underestimate unemployment, as they fail to account for the youths who have returned illegally to the cities from the countryside. In the meantime these youths are supported by their parents. College graduates are still assigned jobs after graduation. In 1983 a total of 6.28 million people were assigned or found work.

*"URBAN YOUTH PAY ATTENTION TO NEW CLOTHING STYLES AND THEIR PARENTS BUY TELEVISIONS AND WASHING MACHINES."*

The 1982 census figures reported that the labor force participation rate for those between ages 15 and 64 was 87.7 percent. Forty-four percent of workers were employed in the agricultural sector. Ninety percent of men work while 76.7 percent of women do so, still a considerably higher labor force participation rate for women than in most developing countries.

Women are disproportionately represented in light manufacturing and in the service industry. These are customarily labor-intensive, low-wage occupations.

Compared to the international average, China lacks a sufficient number of trained and skilled workers. According to a World Bank study in 1980, China has an average of 37 engineers, technicians, managers and administrators per 1,000 employees, while the average in 26 developed and developing nations was 87 per 1,000 employees. The shortage of economists, social scientists, and lawyers, as well as those trained in business and management, is also acute.

Seventy percent of urban and industrial workers have received only a primary education and most have pre-employment training. In agriculture, the ratio of technicians to agricultural workers was 1 to 1,000. China's decommunalization program will intensify the seriousness of this shortage; individual farmers will be less able to obtain the services of commune technical workers.

### Income and Consumption

Peasants in poorer rural regions are economically disadvantaged. A 1982 survey found that yearly per capita net income had increased from 133 yuan in 1978 to 270 yuan in 1982. In 1983 2.4 percent of peasants received less than 100 yuan, 24.4 percent earned between 100-200 yuan, 37 percent between 200-300, 29.5 percent between 300-500 and 6.7 percent earned over 500 yuan. Newspapers carry stories of enterprising peasants who are earning thousands of yuan a year. Some experts express concern that the responsibility system will further exacerbate income differentials in rural areas that have less economic potential than others.

The 1982 sample survey found that peasants spent 67 percent of their income on food, 13 percent on clothing, 7 percent on fuel, 3 percent on housing, 6.5 percent on articles for daily use and 3 percent on recreation. In urban areas, 59 percent of monthly salary was spent on food, 15 percent on clothing, 10 percent on articles for daily use and .5 percent on culture and recreation.

Wages in China did not increase significantly between 1950 and 1977, contributing to low worker motivation and productivity during that period. Distribution of incomes has also been unequal, both in urban and rural areas. In some urban areas, the highest salaries are 20 times those of the lowest wage earners. Cadres and officials receive extra perks. A 1982 survey of income and expenses for urban workers and staff members found that average per

capita monthly income rose from 42 yuan in 1981 to 45 yuan in 1982.

China's new economic policy permits Chinese to show interest in their material well-being. Peasants have become active consumers, purchasing housing, farm machines and tools, bicycles and televisions. Urban youth pay attention to new clothing styles and their parents buy televisions and washing machines. People are more concerned about quality and are now less likely to settle for poorly-constructed goods. In 1983, commodity purchases increased 9.7 percent over 1982 sales, and retail sales in all sectors increased 14 percent over retail sales in 1982. Market prices continue to be stable; the government does not want to lift price controls too soon.

### Transportation and Communication

At the end of 1981 there were 900,000 kilometers of highways, 50,000 kilometers of railways and 180,000 kilometers of waterways in China. Since 1952 transportation of cargo by the above sources increased by nearly 1,500 percent. Seventy percent of China's cargo is transported by rail; China's highway system is ill-equipped for heavy traffic. Nine railway projects are underway to ease retail transport congestion. Inland waterways, historically important for domestic transport, continue to be improved.

China has eight ports along the eastern seaboard. These include Dalian, Qinhuangdao, Tianjin, Qingdao, Lianyungang, Shanghai (the largest), Huangpu, and Zhangjiang. With completion of eight harbor construction projects to install special docks and container berths, by 1985-1987 annual handling capacity will increase to 700,000 international standard carriers.

China's airline, the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC), provides both domestic and international flights. China has three international airports at Beijing, Shanghai, and Guangzhou, and 28 domestic airports throughout the country. CAAC flies 17 international routes and has air agreements with more than 30 nations. The majority of passengers are foreign tourists and government officials. Chinese citizens must obtain permission from their work-units to travel by air, but most would not be able to afford the air fare anyway.

Few people own automobiles; 80 million own bicycles. There are a total of 30,000 buses and 4,000 streetcars spread throughout 221 cities. Eighty cities have taxi service, mainly for tourists.

The government has linked the nation through mass communication. In 1979, 114 radio stations and 38 television stations broadcast across the country. In 1982 there were 18 radios per 100 people. Televisions were more scarce, with only 2.7 per 100 persons, but they are becoming increasingly popular and affordable in China today. Community televisions and radios are accessible to all; few people can escape daily national radio broadcasts. In 1950 there were 2,000 loudspeakers in the country; by 1960 the number had risen to 4.5 million.

***"FEW PEOPLE OWN AUTOMOBILES; 80 MILLION OWN BICYCLES."***

In 1981 China produced 1.5 billion magazines and 5.6 billion books and pictures. In 1982 there were 7.3 books and magazines produced per person. Publication is part of the state sector under the guidance of the state Publications Administration, the Ministry of Culture, and the propaganda committee of the Communist Party.

China's largest newspaper, the *People's Daily (Renmin Ribao)* is published by the Chinese Communist Party. Other major newspapers include the *Liberation Army Daily*, the *Guangming* (a cultural newspaper), the *Worker's Daily*, and *China's Youth Daily*. Two hundred and sixty regional papers are produced daily. Some are for sale only to Chinese, others are further restricted to cadres. For foreigners, the *China Daily* is published in English. The New China News Agency, Xinhua, is China's official news agency. Founded in 1937 by the Communist Party, Xinhua releases news both within China and to the International press.

In 1980 China had an estimated 3.7 million telephones, excluding those operated by government and military organizations. Virtually all phones are installed in work places and most commune and brigade offices. The countryside, with 80 percent of the population, has only 50 percent of the telephones.

### Sources of Information

The U.S. Bureau of the Census International Division maintains a China section which has a comprehensive collection of demographic information on China, including materials from the 1982 census. Contact either John Aird or Judith Banister at (301) 763-4012.

The World Bank publication *China: Socialist Economic Development*, based on a 1979 fact finding tour of China and updated in 1982, offers detailed information and analysis on China's economic and social sectors. Copies can be ordered from World Bank Publications, P.O. Box 37525, Washington, DC 20013. The three volume set is $40.00.

The Chinese government produces an annual *Statistical Yearbook*. The English version is available from Economic Information and Agency, 342 Hennessy Road, Hong Kong, for $30.00.

The Population Reference Bureau published a bulletin, *China: Demographic Billionaire*, in April, 1983. This can be ordered for $3.00 plus $1.00 for postage and handling from Population Reference Bureau, P.O. Box 35012, Washington, DC 20013.

The Chinese government often publishes texts of recent policies and current statistics in the *Beijing Review*. Subscriptions are available for $13.00 per year from Beijing (399), the People's Republic of China.

The *Far Eastern Economic Review* puts out an annual *Asia Yearbook* which includes concise country descriptions, especially from an economic perspective. The Yearbook is available from GPO Box 160, Hong Kong, for $19.95. •

*Karen Hardee*

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# Publications

**Social Science Research and Women in the Arab World,** UNESCO, 1984, Dover, NH: Frances Pinter (Publishers) Ltd., 175 pp., $25.00. Order from Frances Pinter (Publishers) Ltd., 51 Washington Street, Dover, NH 03820.

In a unique meeting organized by UNESCO in 1982, a group of women social scientists from 12 Arab countries came together to discuss the state of research on women in their region and the ways in which future research could be made more relevant to the needs and concerns of Arab women. This volume contains eight studies prepared for this meeting by women specialists from Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, and Sudan.

The contributors call for new research on women in the Arab world to be undertaken by women specialists who are natives of the region and who understand the complex social situation of Arab women today. This approach should avoid the biases and over-simplification often found in research done by outsiders. The research must have as its principal aims the enhancement of knowledge about the problems of Arab women and the improvement of their status.

Five essays cover social and science research in specific Arab countries; two deal with theoretical and methodological matters; and the final essay sums up with "A Survey of Trends in Social Sciences Research on Women in the Arab Region, 1960-1980."

**World Development Report 1984.** New York: Oxford University Press, 1984, 285 pp., $20.00 hardcover; $8.00 paper. Order from Oxford University Press, 200 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10016.

The annual World Bank report is devoted this year to population change and development. A special supplement contains population data from the database of The World Bank. The usual tables of development indicators are also included so that it is possible to use the development reports in a time series.

The report emphasizes the relationship between economic progress and slowing population growth. Tables and charts provide ample evidence of the necessity of reducing population growth. The economic costs of continued rapid population growth are demonstrated.

(For more information on the report, see p. 14, August *International Demographics.*)

**Human Numbers, Human Needs** by Paul Harrison and John Rowley, London: International Planned Parenthood Federation, 1984, $5.00. Order from International Planned Parenthood Federation, 18-20 Lower Regent Street, London SW1Y 4PW, England.

This handbook concludes that even though the world is making progress in meeting basic needs of food, housing, water, energy, jobs, health, and education, in each case population growth compounds the problems.

The most direct impact of rapid population growth is on environment and resources, the handbook says. "In a very immediate way, more people require more resources even for basic existence: more land for agriculture and housing, more water, more fertilizer, more energy, more minerals."

Specific analysis is provided for each of the main areas of need — water, energy, land, jobs, health, education, and family planning.

**The Japanese: Everyday Life in the Empire of the Rising Sun,** by Jean-Claude Courdy, translated from the French by Raymond Rosenthal, 1984, New York: Harper & Row, Publishers, 269 pp., $22.95. Order from Harper & Row, Publishers, 10 East 53rd Street, New York, NY 10022.

This book is an engrossing collection of insights on the Japanese culture, compiled by a French journalist who does not hesitate to illustrate the facts with vivid personal anecdotes. The author begins with an account of his "infatuations and revulsions vis-a-vis the Japanese," but continues beyond his own astounded reactions, "trying to forget my prejudices, my education, what people told me about Japan, and the cliches I myself harbored." The result is a description of the tradition and the modernism, the myth and the reality that coexist in Japanese society today.

Courdy discusses topics of practical interest to those maintaining a business relationship with the Japanese: the professional milieu, the Japanese and technology, women in business, the diplomacy of consensus, the Japanese language and its ambiguities, the three levels of employment, employee-management relations and trade unionism, Japanese-American relations, and how the Japanese view their economy. Check the book's helpful index to discover the importance of calling cards, the function of corridor conversations, and how to travel in Tokyo.

**International Marketing Data and Statistics 1984** and **European Marketing Data and Statistics 1984,** London: Euromonitor Publications, Ltd., $225 each. Order from Gale Research Co., Book Tower, Detroit, MI 48226.

The 1984 versions of these two useful volumes are now available. *European Marketing Data and Statistics 1984* covers 30 countries in Eastern and Western Europe. *International Marketing Data and Statistics 1984* covers 132 countries throughout the world. Each volume has about 400 pages and furnishes data on such broad areas as population, employment, production, trade, economy, standard of living, consumption, market sizes, retailing, consumer expenditure, housing and households, health and education, culture and mass media, communications and travel. •

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Country Profile: Spain. Spain's entry into the European Community makes understanding its population even more important. •

# Regions

## Asia

### China

China's claim of a very low error rate on its 1982 population census count will be under scrutiny for a long time. *Asian and Pacific Census Forum* (Vol. 10, No. 3) contains one of the first thorough discussions of the subject, written by Ronald Freedman, professor of sociology and associate director of the Population Studies Center at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

The article reviews the methods used for the census pretest and the actual enumeration. Freedman comments that the population counted in the pretests alone was "larger than the total population of most countries of the world."

While Freedman says hidden errors may exist, he doubts they are frequent or large. "The immobility of the Chinese population, the strong administrative-political control system, and resources of the registration system all add to the credibility of the census. Even if the error rate turned out to be 10 times higher than that reported, the Chinese census still would be a notable effort," Freedman says.

But he adds, "The credibility of the very low error rates will be better established when the publication of detailed substantive results of the census make possible demographic checks of various kinds by both Chinese and other demographers."

### Japan

A list of Japanese publications in English is now available from OCS America, Inc., Room 461 National Press Building, 14th & F St., N.W., Washington, DC 20045; telephone (202) 347-4233. Included in the list are several publications from JETRO and the Prime Minister's Office, the primary source for census and other statistical data.

More than three-quarters of the small number of imported cars on Japanese streets are German. Although imports are on the rise and expected to exceed 40,000 this year, their number is dwarfed by the 5.6 million cars the Japanese export annually. During the first half of 1984, according to Tokyo's Association of Imported Auto Dealers, 20,238 autos were delivered from overseas, a 20.2 percent upturn from the same period of 1983. West German cars imported by Japan showed a slightly larger proportional increase, to 15,574.

### Philippines

The government seeks to bring down the country's annual population growth to 2 percent by 1987, a level considered good for the national welfare, according to a Philippines Commission on Population report in the latest edition of Asian-Pacific Population Programme News.

The Philippines population growth rate declined from 3.1 percent in the 1960s to about 2.7 percent in 1983. The total fertility rate dropped from 6.3 in 1965 to 4.5 in 1982, according to Perla B. Sanchez, writing in the ESCAP-sponsored publication.

The average age at marriage now is 24 years compared with 22 years in the 1960s.

Contraceptive use has increased from 16 percent of married women in 1968 to 41 percent in 1980 and it is expected to reach 64 percent by 1992. Ninety-four percent of Filipinos say they know about family planning and more couples now favor having small families — a maximum of three children is considered a small family in the study.

The Commission reported that smaller families are usually happier, more stable, and better-off financially. Their children tend to be bigger, taller, and healthier since the nutritional intake of each family member is larger. Each child also is likely to have more of the parents' time.

## Europe

### Divorces Triple

Divorces in the European Community have tripled in the last 20 years, according to Eurostat. In the same period, illegitimate births have doubled.

The annual divorce rate in the European Community was 1.6 per 1,000 people in 1981, up from 0.5 per 1,000 people in 1960. The illegitimate birth rate rose from 45.5 per 1,000 births in 1960 to 92.1 per 1,000 births.

Meanwhile the overall birth rate has declined from 18 per 1,000 people in 1960 to 12.2 per 1,000 in 1982. European experts are now projecting that the population of the ten countries will grow by only 2.7 percent between now and the turn of the century.

Europe Magazine reports that forecasts show the total population of the Community will be about 279 million people by 2000, up from 272 million in 1982. If Spain and Portugal are added as expected in 1986, the total population of the Community would be about 333 million by the year 2000, up from 320 million in 1982. These

figures imply growth of 4.1 percent between now and the turn of the century. Spain and Portugal would grow by 12.5 percent in the same period.

# *Africa*

## Nigeria

Preliminary results from a survey conducted in Nigeria as part of the World Fertility Survey put the average number of children ever born to women who have completed their child-bearing years at 5.6. As opposed to this, the total fertility rate for Nigeria is 6.9 children per woman.

The preliminary results indicate that the fertility rate in Nigeria remains high. Furthermore, most women interviewed in the survey — including those who already have nine children or more — would like to have more children. There is little voluntary use of contraception.

The survey shows that women with a secondary school education or more, marry later, have fewer children, and are more likely to practice contraception. The children of educated women were also more likely to survive, possibly because the women married later, began child bearing at a later age, and have fewer children overall. Women with only primary or middle schooling, however, may bear more children, probably because they no longer use traditional child-spacing methods, nor do they accept contraception.

## South Africa

While the South African population's growth rate declines, its life span is increasing, according to a recent publication from Stellenbosch University's Institute of Futures Research.

The report says the fertility rate of white women in the five years to 1985 averaged 2.05 children per woman, but is expected to drop to 1.81 within the next five years and stabilize at 1.73 on a par with the rest of the Western world.

The fertility rate of colored women is expected to decline from 3.34 children to 2.04 by the year 2000, and that of black women from 5.21 children to 3.7.

While white men now reach an average age of 64 years, this is expected to increase to about 66 years by the end of the century, while white women should live to about 72 years.

## Coping with African Drought

The current African drought affects some 34 countries in both Southern Africa and the Sahelian zone.

The drought has had a devastating effect on food production, cash crops, livestock, and power supplies. The Food and Agriculture Organization estimates that 3.3 million tons of food aid will be needed. As of March, 2.3 million tons had been pledged, but The World Bank had to step in to solve problems with delivery.

The donations help solve the crisis on a short-term basis, but in the medium term a program is needed to restore the productive capacity of the stricken countries. Even more important, according to World Bank authorities, is the need to arrest and reverse the decline in per capita food production in sub-Saharan Africa. Future agricultural projects should include rehabilitation schemes, such as replanting tree crops and repairing irrigation systems.

Between 60 and 90 percent of all African families rely on fuelwood for their energy needs. This heavy use has caused a rapid disappearance of forests and vegetation. This in turn, reduces soil fertility, accelerates soil erosion, and eventually triggers a slow but relentless process of "desertification." This process threatens the survival of people living in the more arid regions of sub-Saharan Africa. Current projections indicate that by 2000 the natural forest cover will have virtually disappeared in most of the Sahel and Horn of Africa.

At the heart of the problem is a rate of population growth that far exceeds the modest and fragile ecological potential of the land. So far, little has been done to curb population growth, nor is there the technology and sociological knowledge required to develop large-scale rural development programs and forest plantations that would arrest this process and increase the carrying capacity of the land.

A possible scenario for the future of sub-Saharan Africa consists of a gradual and inexorable destruction of the environment, with the people surviving mainly on food aid and remittances from migrant workers. But there is a brighter scenario, one which requires considerable progress in three areas: technology, land tenure, and financial incentives.

What is needed, World Bank analysts say, is the development of drought-resistant, high-yielding varieties of sorghum and millet, the staples of the region, and of fast-growing, drought-resistant tree species that can serve the varied needs of rural populations.

## Lesotho

Lesotho, with a population of 1 million and an average annual growth rate of 2.8 percent, is launching a project to relieve a shortage of classrooms in the primary grades and to raise the quality of instruction at the primary, secondary, and vocational levels. The project, part of a government program to improve the educational system, includes construction of classrooms, training for teachers and principals, and establishment of a business and commercial stream at a vocational school.

According to latest World Bank figures, the average woman in Lesotho now bears nearly 6 children in her lifetime. The population would be growing much faster except that the infant mortality rate is now about 94 per thousand compared with 11 per thousand in the United States and even lower rates in many European countries. Life expectancy is 55 years for women and 51 years for men. About 40 percent of the population is under age 15.

The International Development Association is supporting the project with about $10 million. Since 1974, IDA has spent about $22 million to develop education and training in Lesotho.

The current project includes the construction of 330 classrooms at about 100 elementary schools. Classrooms, labs, and workshops will be built at about eight high schools. Science equipment and materials will go to selected secondary schools. •

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